

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A content protection ~~An~~ apparatus comprising:  
a controller to detect a board coupling condition of a board and a device and to perform a shutdown of a system including the board and the device in response to the board coupling condition.
2. (Currently Amended) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the controller is attached to the board.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the device is a second board.
5. (Currently Amended) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the second board is an adapter card.
6. (Currently Amended) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the second board is an add-in card.
7. (Currently Amended) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a connector to couple the board to the second board.

8. (Currently Amended) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the board is a printed circuit board.
9. (Currently Amended) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the controller performs the shutdown of the system when the board coupling condition is a coupling condition indicates that ~~occurs when~~ no AC power is being supplied.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Currently Amended) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shutdown is a removal of power from at least one of the board and the device.
12. (Currently Amended) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the controller is further to log an event in response to the board coupling condition.
13. (Currently Amended) A content protection An apparatus comprising:  
a detector to detect a board coupling condition of a board and a device; and  
a controller to perform a power shutdown of a system including the board and the device in response to the board coupling condition.

14. (Currently Amended) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the controller performs a shutdown of the system when the board coupling condition is a coupling condition between the board and the device when indicates that AC power is not being supplied to either the board or the device.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein the device is at least one of a board, an add-in card, an adapter card, and a module.

17. (Currently Amended) A content protection system comprising:

- a board;
- a device;
- a connector to couple the board to the device;
- an electrical circuit formed among the board, the connector and the device; and
- a controller to perform a shutdown of the system in response to a condition of the electrical circuit.

18. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, further comprising a detector to detect an open circuit condition of the electrical circuit, the controller to perform the shutdown in response to the open circuit condition.

19. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is at least one of a board, an add-in card, an adapter card and a module.

20. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and at least one of the board and the second board is a printed circuit board.

21. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and at least one of the board and the second board is an adapter card.

22. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and at least one of the board and the second board is an add-in card.

23. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and at least a portion of the controller is attached to at least one of the board and the second board.

24. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the controller is to detect an uncoupling of the board and the device in response to the electrical circuit, and to perform the shutdown in response to the uncoupling.

25. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the controller is to perform the shutdown by ensuring that power is not supplied to the first board and is not supplied to the device.

26. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the controller is a detector.

27. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, further comprising a detector to detect an uncoupling of the board and the device, the controller to perform the shutdown in response to the uncoupling.

28. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, the controller to perform the shutdown in response to an uncoupling of the board and the device.

29. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the uncoupling is an uncoupling of the board and the device when AC power is not being supplied to either the board or the device.

30. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and at least one of the first board and the second board includes inner layer trace signals.

31. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and at least one of the board and the second board overlaps the other board in a portion of the other board near the connector.

32. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and at least one of the board and the second board includes a component having a package that is difficult to probe.

33. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 32, wherein the package is at least one of a ball grid array package and a flip chip ball grid array package.

34. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the board includes a component having a package that is difficult to probe.

35. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 34, wherein the package is at least one of a ball grid array package and a flip chip ball grid array package.

36. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and at least one of the board and the second board has attached thereon a memory device to store a unique identifier identifying at least one of the board and the second board.

37. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 36, wherein the board has attached thereon a first memory device to store a unique identifier identifying at least one of the board and the second board and wherein the second board has attached thereon a second memory device to store a unique identifier identifying at least one of the board and the second board.

38. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the board has attached thereon a memory device to store a unique identifier identifying at least one of the board and the second board.

39. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the connector is a connector that is difficult to probe.

40. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 39, wherein the connector is a surface mount connector.

41. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, further comprising a metal can enclosing at least one component attached to the board.

42. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and further comprising a metal can enclosing at least one component attached to the second board.

43. (Currently Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the controller performs the shutdown in response to an open circuit condition of the electrical circuit.

44. (Currently Amended) A content protection method comprising:  
monitoring a board coupling condition of a board and a device; and  
performing a shutdown of a system that includes the board and the device in response to the monitoring.

45. (Currently Amended) A content protection method as claimed in claim 44, wherein the shutdown includes ensuring power is not supplied to the board.



46. (Currently Amended) The content protection method as claimed in claim 44, wherein the board coupling condition is a coupling condition between a board and a device when AC power is not being supplied to either the board or the device.

47. (Currently Amended) The content protection method as claimed in claim 44, wherein the board coupling condition corresponds to a condition of a protection circuit between a board and a device.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently Amended) The content protection method as claimed in claim 44, wherein the shutdown includes shutting down the system immediately upon detection of the board coupling condition during a power-up.

50. (Currently Amended) The content protection method as claimed in claim 44, wherein the shutdown includes providing at least one of an alert and a log event.

51. (Currently Amended) A content protection ~~An~~ article comprising:  
a computer readable medium having instructions thereon which when executed cause a computer to:  
monitor a board coupling condition of a board and a device; and  
perform a shutdown of a system including the board and the device in response to the board coupling condition.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Currently Amended) The ~~medium~~ content protection article as claimed in claim 51, wherein the board coupling condition is a condition occurring when no AC power is being supplied.

54. (New) The content protection article as claimed in claim 51, wherein the board coupling condition is a condition occurring when a connector coupling the board and the device has been connected or disconnected.

55. (New) The content protection article as claimed in claim 51, wherein the shutdown is performed in response to an uncoupling of the board and the device.

57. (New) The content protection article as claimed in claim 56, wherein the uncoupling is an uncoupling of the board and the device when AC power is not being supplied to either the board or the device.

58. (New) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the board coupling condition is a condition occurring when no AC power is being supplied.

59. (New) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the board coupling condition is a condition occurring when a connector coupling the board and the device has been connected or disconnected.

60. (New) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shutdown is performed in response to an uncoupling of the board and the device.

61. (New) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 60, wherein the uncoupling is an uncoupling of the board and the device when AC power is not being supplied to either the board or the device.
62. (New) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the board coupling condition is a condition occurring when no AC power is being supplied.
63. (New) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the board coupling condition is a condition occurring when a connector coupling the board and the device has been connected or disconnected.
64. (New) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the shutdown is performed in response to an uncoupling of the board and the device.
65. (New) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 64, wherein the uncoupling is an uncoupling of the board and the device when AC power is not being supplied to either the board or the device.
66. (New) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the board coupling condition is a condition occurring when no AC power is being supplied.
67. (New) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the board coupling condition is a condition occurring when the connector coupling the board and the device has been connected or disconnected.
68. (New) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the shutdown is performed in response to an uncoupling of the board and the device.
69. (New) The content protection system as claimed in claim 68, wherein the uncoupling is an uncoupling of the board and the device when AC power is not being supplied to either the board or the device.

70. (New) The content protection method as claimed in claim 44, wherein the board coupling condition is a condition occurring when no AC power is being supplied.

71. (New) The content protection method as claimed in claim 44, wherein the board coupling condition is a condition occurring when a connector coupling the board and the device has been connected or disconnected.

72. (New) The content protection method as claimed in claim 44, wherein the shutdown is performed in response to an uncoupling of the board and the device.

73. (New) The content protection method as claimed in claim 72, wherein the uncoupling is an uncoupling of the board and the device when AC power is not being supplied to either the board or the device.